

Security Information

# THE STALEMATE IN INDOCHINA

The conflict in Indochina, now in its seventh year, is still a stalemate. There is no prospect of an early military decision for the French Union forces -- or for the Communist-led Viet Minh barring large scale intervention by Communist China.

But this war is quite different from the stalemated war in Korea. The ~~basic~~ <sup>most deep seated</sup> problem in Indochina is political -- the people remain largely apathetic -- and substantial progress

towards a solution of the political problem seems to be a prerequisite for ~~any~~ <sup>on</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>any significant or lasting</sup> advance toward victory over Communism in that country. It is ~~impossible~~ <sup>difficult</sup> to overestimate the ~~difficulties~~ <sup>magnitude of the problem of</sup>

~~involved in~~ reconciling the nationalist aspirations of the native people with present French policies.

*The question is often argued as to which should (or must) come first, new military victories or an improvement in the political situation.*

Tonkin, the northern province of Vietnam, is the area of major military activity, but there is sporadic guerrilla fighting throughout the rest of Vietnam and in the other Indochinese states of Laos and Cambodia. The French-led forces consist of some 195,000 Frenchmen, Foreign Legionnaires, Senegalese and Indochinese of the French regular army, plus various supplementary native formations, which include the 60 battalions of the Vietnam National Army. The over-all total of these forces.

*It is the view of this Agency that each is indispensable and that the two are inseparable -- they must both be pursued simultaneously.*

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